

Message Text

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70/70

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /052 W

----- 104163

R 171115Z JUL 75 ZEL

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7379

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR OMISSION OF EO TAGS AND SUBJ

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: OAU, XY, DM

SUBJ: ATTENDANCE OF WEST AFRICAN CHIEFS OF STATE

AT OAU SUMMIT

1. DAHOMEAN FORNMIN OFFICIAL INFORMED EMBOFF 14 JULY, THAT ACCORDING TO INFORMAL SURVEY CONDUCTED BY HIS MINISTRY AMONG DAHOMEY'S WEST AFRICAN NEIGHBORS, NO WEST AFRICAN HEAD OF STATE IS PLANNING ATTEND OAU SUMMIT STARTING JULY 18 IN KAMPALA. THEY WILL BE REPRESENTED ONLY AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL. DAHOMEAN DEL WILL CONSIST OF FORNMIN MICHEL ALLADAYE AND TWO OR THREE FORNMIN OFFICIALS.

2. UGANDA'S GEN AMIN IS APPARENTLY TRYING VERY HARD TO ATTRACT DELEGATES TO KAMPALA. HE HAS OFFERED TO PAY THE ENTIRE BILL (TRANSPORT, LODGING, ETC) FOR EVERY DEL ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE. DAHOMEAN OFFICIAL COMMENTED THAT WITH A PERSON LIKE AMIN, ONE COULD VERY POSSIBLY ARRIVE IN KAMPALA ONLY TO DISCOVER THAT THIS UNPRECEDENTED OFFER HAD BEEN RESCINDED.

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3. OFFICIAL ALSO STATED THAT DAHOMEY HAD BEEN CONTACTED ON QUESTION OF SUPPORTING SAMORA MACHEL, PRESIDENT OF NEWLY INDEPENDENT MOZAMBIQUE, AS OAU PRESIDENT FOR THE COMING YEAR IN PLACE OF GEN AMIN. HOWEVER, DAHOMEAN SOURCE INDICATED THAT SUPPORT FOR MACHEL SEEMS TO HAVE PETERED OUT AND THE OAU WILL BE STUCK WITH AMIN AS PRESIDENT AND SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEXT YEAR.

4. COMMENT: DAHOMEAN SOURCE DEFINITELY GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT DAHOMEY IS NOT PLEASED WITH PROSPECT OF AMIN LEADING OAU FOR THE COMING YEAR. IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, DAHOMEY AGREES WITH SOME OF ITS WEST AFRICAN NEIGHBORS (E.G. IVORY COAST) THAT OAU'S INTERESTS WILL NOT BE BEST SERVED BY AMIN'S ELECTION, BUT IS TOO SOLIDARITY-SONSCIOUS TO GO AGAINST THE MAJORITY AT THE OAU SUMMIT. END COMMENT.
CHESHES

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